

## Doing all the Things

*One thing I have asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. – Psalm 27:4*

A good friend of mine is fond of saying that she wants to “do all the things” when she encounters something new and exciting. I suspect she puts words to what many of us think when we observe the wonder of the world around us. We look at creation with amazement, and we want to become experts at all of it. We want to become great musicians, readers, communicators, scientists, bakers, and painters. The list goes on and on.

But the reality is we cannot “do all the things.” When we try to master many things, the effect is often the opposite—we master nothing. We become dabblers, flitting about the surface of things, but not really accomplishing anything. A secondary effect is that we can become easily overwhelmed by busyness. I know from my own life that I can easily fall victim to “hurry sickness” when I have put too many things on my plate and find myself unable to manage any of them effectively: time for work, time for sermon preparation, time for speaking engagements, time for family, time for hobbies, time for friends, time for intervening in crisis. When I somehow convince myself that I can “do all the things,” what I actually accomplish is exhaustion. How can I love God well, and how can I love others well, when I am always hurrying?

The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote often of the folly of striving. He sought fulfillment in many different things—wisdom, power, pleasure, work—and found that nothing fulfilled. We can chase after ten thousand pleasures and find that none satisfies. How much better would it be if we concerned ourselves less with seeking after “all of the things” and instead sought fulfillment in the only One who satisfies?

### Submitted by:

Jason Kanz  
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Eau Claire, Wisconsin

### One-Year Bible Reading

Leviticus 24:1-25:46  
Mark 10:13-31  
Psalm 44:9-26  
Proverbs 10:20-21

## Open up Your Wonders

*Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul observes them. The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments. – Psalm 119: 129-131*

*Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands. – Psalm 119: 129-131 NIV*

In Psalm 119 the psalmist tells us, “Your statutes are wonderful.” God’s commands are wonderful. Why? If obeyed, life will be spiritually good because God’s commands for you are good.

“The unfolding of Your words gives light,” we learn next. Think of that image of light and recall, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). Or visualize the action of “unfolding.” I picture a peacock spreading out his tail. While his tail feathers are closed, the peacock is plain, simple. But when he spreads them wide, you see the beauty and majesty of the peacock. It’s the same with God’s Word. At the outset it just seems like a lot of rules and regulations. But open it up, dive in, meditate and pray, and the beauty of God’s Word will open up to you. You will stand back in amazement and awe at the wonder of God.

The present tense of the NIV translation makes “I open my mouth and pant” very convicting to me. Do I pant for God’s commands? Do I long for His Word? Do I desire to spend time with God? Do I yearn for Him? Sometimes. Those moments are times of wonder. I get a taste of God. I want more. I want to pray. I want to read God’s Word. I want to meditate on and memorize it. I want to grow. I want to share. I want to bring glory to God.

Lord, open up Your wonders to each one of us today. Let me stand in awe of You. Help me share Your wonders with others today.

### Submitted by:

Shirley Ferguson  
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### One-Year Bible Reading

Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54  
Mark 11:1-26  
Psalm 46:1-11  
Proverbs 10:23

## Everyone is Looking For You

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” – Mark 1:35-37 NIV*

“Everyone is looking for you!” We all face demands for our time and our help. Moms experience it when they try to get a few quiet moments alone in the bathroom, and a toddler is banging on the door. Employees experience it when there is a crucial deadline at work. Students feel the pressure during exam weeks. We all feel it from schools and churches and food pantries that are desperate for volunteers to lend a hand.

Jesus experienced demands as well. In the above passage His disciples are anxiously seeking Him because there are so many needs and so much to do. Jesus did not let this overwhelm Him. He confidently knew what His priorities should be and made a plan of action to go to nearby villages to preach the gospel.

I long to have the same peace that I am spending my time on the things that matter most without feeling the pressure to do everything. I see three key elements in Jesus’ example. First, He **served**. He was faithfully involved in doing good to those around Him. Then He **withdrew**. He made the time to get away by Himself to rest and reevaluate and to seek the guidance of His Father. Finally, He **refocused**. Even though there were many needs to be met, He changed course under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Father God, help me not to be carried away by the demands of the crowds. Help me to quiet the noise, to be refreshed in Your presence, and to allow my commitments to be directed by You.

### Submitted by:

Kelly Lewis  
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Lewis Center, Ohio

### One-Year Bible Reading

Leviticus 25:47-27:13  
Mark 10:32-52  
Psalm 45:1-17  
Proverbs 10:22

## Sing Loudly

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! – Psalm 100:1-2 ESV*

One weekend I had the privilege of helping lead three separate worship services at The Rock Church. I was reminded then, while reading my Bible, that singing and entering into God’s presence with music is a command from the Lord.

Think about this—how amazing is it that our God tells us to come to Him with music and singing and gladness?! What a great God we serve. He reminds us that we have so much to sing about. He even asks us to come to Him with a “joyful noise”!

There is a time to come to the Lord with quietness and stillness, but there is also a time for joyful singing! Sometimes, I catch my young kids singing. During these times I have noticed that it is a response to a happy heart.

This week, reflect upon some of these attributes of God and allow these truths to lead you into making a “joyful noise” yourself—

God is all-loving. (Isaiah 54:10)

God is all-knowing. (Isaiah 46:11)

God is good through and through. (Psalm 119:68)

God has good plans for your life. (Jeremiah 29:11)

You are forgiven forever. (1 Peter 3:18)

These are just a few of the wonderful truths about the greatness of God which are found in the Bible. I think I hear a song coming right now!

Have a blessed and song-filled week.

### Submitted by:

Steele Crosswhite  
The Rock Church  
Draper, Utah

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 2:1-3:51  
Mark 11:27-12:17  
Psalm 47:1-9  
Proverbs 10:24-25

## What Is the Gospel?

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. – Luke 19:10 ESV*

In his book *Evangelism*, J. Mack Stiles provides a working, yet incomplete, definition of what the gospel is: “The gospel is the joyful message from God that leads us to salvation” (page 33). However, what is the content of this joyful message?

The gospel is that the Triune God is knocking at the door of your home. God the Spirit is a herald, both delivering good news and giving you the will to believe such good news. God the Son is the good news: His incarnation, covenant-keeping, death, burial, and resurrection have ransomed and rescued you. God the Father is the author, creator and sustainer of the good news—the redemptive plan to relocate you from the hovel of your home into a relationship with the Triune God of Scripture.

The knock of the Triune God necessitates a response. One can pretend no one is knocking, or one can answer the door. Upon answering the door, one can immediately shut the door and refuse the door-to-door salesman, one can be intrigued by his product, but not invest, or one can believe and buy his product.

Let us be clear: God is not an itinerant salesman peddling happiness or religious fulfillment. His offer of relocation is a direct, spoken invitation aiming to persuade you both of the wretchedness of your home and the very homeowner himself, as well as the goodness of a future home.

At this point, the homeowners may express one of three responses. They may be indignant and outraged. They may choose to kill the salesman, a response Jesus faced here. Or they may feign interest, while actually indifferent—their persistent belief is that their home is still the best in the neighborhood merely because of their residency. Were you in one of these categories before you knew Christ? Or are you still?

### Submitted by:

Andrew Roberts  
Awaken Church  
Jacksonville, Florida

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 4:1-5:31  
Mark 12:18-37  
Psalm 48:1-14  
Proverbs 10:26

Wednesday, March 7

## God Makes It Easy

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-10*

I was talking with a friend about reconciliation. How are we to approach reconciliation with someone who has hurt us very deeply, not aiming at us intentionally, but also not accidentally, knowing that his actions would surely result in damage to our lives? I think of the example of a parent’s divorce. The divorce is aimed to secure escape from an intolerable partnership, but the children suffer collateral damage as one parent leaves the home and their everyday life.

Does it matter if that person cares about my life? Shouldn’t forgiveness depend on whether the person sincerely wants to come back into my realm and know me? Sincerity matters, of course—trust and interaction must be based on honesty and genuine feelings. But what does *God* require of *us* to come into His world, to receive our salvation? Must we genuinely care about *His* feelings? Must our motivation be to know Him and His ways? I think few would come to salvation if God required that purity of motivation. Most of us come out of our awareness of our need and His supply—we need forgiveness and eternal life, and, amazingly, He offers both of those free of charge. *God makes it so easy to come in.*

As Christians we find we have new motivations; we receive purity of heart as a gift. We are dressed in Christ’s righteousness. In the process of growing up as a Christian, we *do* come to love God more deeply and care about His feelings. We become concerned about His reputation and His concerns. But were those feelings present at our salvation?

God the Father makes our reconciliation with Him so easy. Much follows, but the beginning is pure gift. How shall we apply this truth to reconciliation with others?

### Submitted by:

Dotty Vanderhorst  
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### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 8:1-9:23  
Mark 13:14-37  
Psalm 50:1-23  
Proverbs 10:29-30

## What Is the Gospel? – 2

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. – Romans 10:17 ESV*

When the Triune God knocks on the door of your life, you may reject His offer angrily or with indifference, or respond in a third way which has one or two stages: some homeowners begin a careful inquiry, while others respond immediately in joyful celebration! Both of these responses are based on openness to and belief in the message and messenger of the gospel. Both recognize that the home and homeowner are condemned, and the only renovation possible is through the person of Jesus.

An important note is that the Triune God is not a cold, vapid executive who demands unflinching quarterly obedience reports. On the contrary, He is loving, warm, compassionate, ready to reason, to forgive sins and to extend grace based not on your merit, but His covenantal work (Ephesians 2:8-9 and Hebrews 10:17). In fact, the incarnate Son’s intention is to enter into our world and draw us into community—this is about embracing and inclusion. He knows our attachment to our home, yet He has made a covenant for us via the shedding of His blood so we may leave our homes to join Him (Hebrews 4:15, 9:22).

Once we believe in the Triune God who knocks at our door, enters and dines with us, He rises and invites us to join Him. The journey will not be easy because we must step out of our homes and into His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is unlike our home; different values, attitudes, and behaviors exist. There is one King in the Kingdom. (Homeowners are *not* kings or queens!) However, the King is on the journey with us, and His home is near (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus repeatedly preached that He came to bear our sins, die our death, be raised to life and be with us always as King in His Kingdom. This is the good news, the gospel!

### Submitted by:

Andrew Roberts  
Awaken Church  
Jacksonville, Florida

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 6:1-7:89  
Mark 12:38-13:13  
Psalm 49:1-20  
Proverbs 10:27-28

Thursday, March 8

## “Big Girls Don’t Cry” . . . Or Do They?

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. – Matthew 5:4 NIV*

We received the distress call from our young granddaughter, urging us to come upstairs “right away!” Her older two sisters were playing dress up in our bedroom, and something had happened.

When my husband Dave and I entered the room, we immediately spotted our middle granddaughter sadly holding her now-broken ukulele. Her two sisters explained how she had accidentally stepped on her prized instrument (covered with dress-up clothes), breaking its neck.

While Dave inspected the ukulele, I drew alongside our forlorn granddaughter. She was quietly and stoically repeating, “I won’t cry, I won’t cry” over and over.

“Why won’t you cry?” I asked her. “It’s OK to cry. It was your special ukulele, one that you got for your birthday.” Her lips began to quiver, and the tears started to flow.

“It was my favorite birthday present!” she blubbered. And as she cried, I pulled her into my arms and comforted her. It was a sad moment, and she needed to know that we were sad with her.

The tears didn’t last too long, especially after Grandpa announced that he thought he could glue and repair it.

Sometimes we need to give ourselves and others permission to grieve and to shed cleansing tears of loss. We need to learn how to enter into each other’s losses and “to weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15). How do we do this? First we learn how to be comforted by God, the Father of compassion and comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Then we in turn can care for others who are hurting and sad, offering a listening, empathetic ear, a comforting hug, and a Kleenex (or two . . . or three!) There is blessing in mourning, for there is comfort in the end.

### Submitted by:

Dawn Bovenmeyer  
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Ames, Iowa

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 10:1-11:23  
Mark 14:1-21  
Psalm 51:1-19  
Proverbs 10:31-32

## When Doubts Are Good

*And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." – Luke 24:38-39*

The ten-year-old girl boldly asked her question in the seminar in front of a room full of college students and a few of us seasoned citizens. Afterward, I approached her and complimented her for speaking up. She said with anxiety in her voice, "I have been a Christian since I was born, but ever since I turned ten, I have been having doubts. I'm worried because I think my faith is getting weaker!"

I assured her that it was actually just the opposite: "Having doubts is good and normal if you handle them well, like you are doing." I continued to reassure her, "What happens when your body is growing? It has growing pains, doesn't it?"

"Yes," she said with curiosity in her voice.

"You are growing in your faith," I explained. "You are having spiritual growing pains. Your doubts are driving you to ask questions, to seek answers for yourself and your friends. That strengthens your faith, doesn't it?" She nodded in agreement and left with a smile of confidence.

Doubts aren't evil. They don't mean your faith is weak. They are normal and part of the growing process. Doubts are also a normal part of someone coming to Christ for salvation. We can allow these doubts to cripple us, or we can respond to them by seeking God for answers to our questions. What doubts do you have, and what are you doing about them?

### Submitted by:

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### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 11:24-13:33  
Mark 14:22-52  
Psalm 52:1-9  
Proverbs 11:1-3

Sunday, March 11

## A Man of God is a Man of the Word

*You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them. – 2 Timothy 3:14*

I talked to a friend of mine who knew another pastor whose church was growing—but this pastor had just confided in my friend that he and his wife were getting a divorce. In contrast, I have a close GCC pastor friend who is ministering in a comparatively small church but whose marriage is strong and vibrant.

I thought to myself that I would much prefer to listen to the teaching of my pastor friend than the other man. A teacher's character is more important than his popularity.

When I reflected on these two pastors, I thought of this verse. A man of God is a man of the Word. He studies the Word. He teaches the Word. But most of all, he lives the Word.

Paul emphasizes this truth with Timothy. In this section of his letter, Paul focuses on the Word of God. And the first point he makes is that we are to continue in the Word, looking at the lives of those who taught it to us.

In America today, we have a credibility gap. People question politicians. They question the media. They question business leaders. In this questioning and suspicious environment, it is imperative that they not question and reject the church, which gives the word of truth. And the key to a person having confidence in the church is to have pastors who are the "real deal."

So, if you aspire to be a man of God, be a man of the Word. That is, be a man who lives the Word, in integrity and humility. And if you are a member of a church that has a pastor who is a man of character, take a moment to thank God—and thank that pastor.

### Submitted by:

John Hople  
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Worthington, Ohio

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 15:17-16:40  
Mark 15:1-47  
Psalm 54:1-7  
Proverbs 11:5-6

## A Faith to Pass On

*... that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. – 1 Peter 1:7*

During Paul's first missionary journey, he and Barnabas end up in Lystra where events take them from being worshipped as gods to Paul being stoned nearly to death and dragged out of town. Acts 14:20 says that as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into town.

At the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey, Paul heads to Lystra where he wants to pick up Timothy. We can only speculate, but Lois and Eunice may have been in the group of believers the first time around who saw Paul get stoned nearly to death and dragged out of the city.

So, perhaps the conversation beginning the second journey went something like this. Paul says, "Hello, Eunice, I would like to take your son Timothy with me on my journey."

Eunice replies, "Oh, will the same things happen to him that happened to you when you were in town? Will he have crowds get angry with him and stone him nearly to death? And you want to circumcise him first, as a young man? Sure, that sounds great! I'd love for him to go with you."

This conversation is speculation, but because of the faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother, they consented to their son leaving home and risking his life time after time to take the gospel throughout Asia so that many would be saved.

Timothy's grandmother and mother modeled a faith that reached nations. That faith was more precious than gold. A string of small "yesses" to Jesus each day builds a faith that's worth passing on.

### Submitted by:

Barbara Wilson  
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### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 14:1-15:16  
Mark 14:53-72  
Psalm 53:1-6  
Proverbs 11:4

Monday, March 12

## Second-Generation Christians – 2

*And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. – 2 Timothy 3:15*

At a GCC pastors conference several years ago, I asked, "How many of you who are over 40 years old grew up in a family where the father and mother were strong Christians devoted to the Scriptures?" Only a few hands went up. But then I noticed that there were scores of young pastors under 40 who had been raised up as second-generation Christians by these same pastors and other Christians in GCC churches.

It is a rich heritage to be brought up in a Christian family where the Word was taught. Almost without exception, those who were raised to be pastors in the early years of Great Commission Churches are first-generation Christians. We learned God's truth not from our families but from God and from early leaders in the movement. But a second generation has been raised up which, as Paul said, "*from childhood have known the sacred writings which are able to give wisdom that leads to salvation.*" This is quite exciting.

Why did Paul remind Timothy of his heritage? Because when you look back at what God has done in building deep roots in our lives, it makes those roots go down deeper still. For this reason, whenever I come across a person who was brought up in a devoted Christian family, I make sure they appreciate the blessing that they have received.

A man of God is a man of the Word. And a man who receives the Word of God in his family upbringing is a man truly blessed by God.

### Submitted by:

John Hople  
Great Commission Churches  
Worthington, Ohio

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 16:41-18:32  
Mark 16:1-20  
Psalm 55:1-23  
Proverbs 11:7

### The Leviticus 18:18 Principle – 3

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. – 2 Timothy 3:16*

For over forty years, I have had the habit of reading through the Bible each year. This verse has inspired me to do so. I know that all Scripture is profitable. But, to be honest, it is a temptation to think this is not true, especially when I read Leviticus. All the details on the sacrifices and temple rules don't seem profitable to me. But I continue on, trusting that 2 Timothy 3:16 is true.

One year I found myself in a "mindset of regretting." I pondered unwise decisions I had made in my youth. "If I could do it all over again, I would make this decision or that decision," I thought to myself.

Then I read Leviticus 18:18: "*You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.*" I thought, "Wait a second. God told Moses that a man should not marry his wife's sister . . . but this is the very way God raised up the nation of Israel. The tribes of Israel were from two sisters, Rachel and Leah, and their two female servants. And now God was saying not to do that. How can God bless something that was not ideal from the beginning?"

Then it dawned on me. God is the God of grace. He blessed Jacob's wives Rachel and Leah, despite the fact that this arrangement was not ideal. But God also made it clear not to do it again!

The "Leviticus 18:18 Principle" was born in my mind. God blesses us in our ignorance in the past. But He gives us wisdom not to do it again in the future. And this principle has helped me so much when I get into a "mindset of regretting."

Second Timothy 3:16 is true. All Scripture is profitable for teaching. Even the book of Leviticus.

#### Submitted by:

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#### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 19:1-20:29  
Luke 1:1-25  
Psalm 56:1-13  
Proverbs 11:8

Thursday, March 15

### Stronger

*I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I will sing your praises before the gods. – Psalm 138:1 NLT*

This isn't ordinary "thankful." This man is so thankful he's singing. Probably because he has a trouble-free life, right? Nope. If you go down a few verses he says *troubles surround him*. So what gives?

"As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength," the psalmist says (Psalm 138:3 NLT). I wish it read, "As soon as I pray, you fix my problems." Why didn't he write that . . . ?

Because he wrote something better.

The Lord gives him *strength*. His problems are still there, but his anxiety is gone. If God just fixed everything, we wouldn't have this kind of strength. We'd stay weak, like children who always get what they want. God knows better. He wants us strong enough to sing when we're up to our neck in problems.

And that's strong.

But how do we get this strength? Look at what the psalmist did. He prayed a powerful prayer. He prayed a *thankful* prayer. With *all* of his heart.

Thankfulness reminds us of how good God has been. It helps us realize that if He's been faithful to us in the past, He'll also be faithful to us in the future. And thankfulness ignites a precious thing in your heart. What is it?

Faith. And faith strengthens you.

Thank Him for everything. Your family, running water, hot chocolate, and whatever else you can think of. Keep going until you reach the cross and His Son Jesus. I promise your heart will be different when finished.

You'll be stronger.

#### Submitted by:

Spencer Bernard  
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#### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 22:21-23:30  
Luke 1:57-80  
Psalm 58:1-11  
Proverbs 11:12-13

### A Man of one Book – 4

*So that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:17*

For me, the word that jumps out in the above verse is "adequate." A man who studies the Word of God is indeed adequate for every good work.

John Wesley (1703-1791) referred to himself as a "man of one Book." That is, the Bible was his one Book that he lived by. He read it. He lived it. He taught it.

There is a difference between a man who reads the Bible or who reads the Bible regularly and a man of one Book. A big difference. The man of one Book is immersed in the Bible because he knows it is adequate for him as he lives his life.

Another man of one Book was G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945). An associate of D. L. Moody, Morgan was one of the leading Bible teachers of the last century. Billy Graham said of Morgan, "*I always considered G. Campbell Morgan one of the greatest Bible expositors of his generation.*" He was not trained in a seminary but was a man immersed in God's Word. Morgan had impeccable integrity and trained his sons to be ministers of the gospel.

Once Morgan was asked about how he studied the Bible. He responded, "If I tell you, the chances are you would not do it." Morgan then said, "I read a book through 40 to 50 times before I even start to study it."

John Wesley and G. Campbell Morgan were both men of one Book. They really believed 2 Timothy 3:17, that a man is made adequate by the Scriptures.

Are you a man or a woman of one Book?

#### Submitted by:

John Hopler  
Great Commission Churches  
Worthington, Ohio

#### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 21:1-22:20  
Luke 1:26-56  
Psalm 57:1-11  
Proverbs 11:9-11

Friday, March 16

### God's Plan

*And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. – Genesis 50:20*

Joseph was sent ahead to Egypt to prepare the way for his brothers so they would be spared in the time of famine. Think about it: Joseph was sold into slavery, tempted, wrongly thrown into prison, forgotten, and then raised to power. This was all so that his brothers, who sold him into slavery, could be saved. All this happened to him for Israel to be saved. It was all according to God's everlasting, perfect plan.

The land that saved Israel from the famine also became the land that enslaved them many years later. But both the rescue and the enslavement were in God's plan. He knew that Israel would be enslaved, yet God led them there anyway.

Though Israelites were enslaved, they were fruitful and multiplied. Usually people wither and die while enslaved. But not the Israelites! They prospered and grew. God was with them and blessed them in the midst of misery. Life wasn't easy for them. But God made them strong, strong enough to leave all they knew behind, strong enough to walk through an open sea, strong enough to cross a desert. God had a plan.

In hard times it is easy to forget that God has a plan of which you are a part. Looking back, do you see how the hard times have been God's times? Times that God has used mightily in yours or others' lives? God has everything planned. He doesn't make mistakes.

As in the case of Joseph and the Israelites, the trials you are going through right now might not only be for your benefit at this moment; they may also be for the benefit of others. Trust God. He is faithful. His plan is sure.

#### Submitted by:

Shirley Ferguson  
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#### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 24:1-25:18  
Luke 2:1-35  
Psalm 59:1-17  
Proverbs 11:14

## Getting Real with God

*O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?*

*How long will you look the other way? – Psalm 13:1 NLT*

Psalm 13 doesn't start pretty. It's messy. There's frustration and anger. We also see how to heal when we feel those emotions.

Who's this writer speaking to? He's talking to God. He's *praying*. And he's not cleaning up anything. He's giving it to God straight. No edits.

You can do that too. If you're thinking it and feeling it, tell God. He can take it.

*Turn and answer me, O Lord my God!*

*Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die. Psalm 13:3 NLT*

After he vents, the psalmist starts asking. Asking with *humility*. He needs help, and God is his only option. The Lord is the only one who can fix him.

This is a wonderful template. After you're done complaining, tell God what you need. Just like a child tells his or her parent.

*But I trust in your unfailing love.*

*I will rejoice because you have rescued me. Psalm 13:5 NLT*

Notice he says, "*You have rescued me.*" Past tense. He's *remembering* God's faithfulness in his life. When we remember how faithful He's been, it helps us to trust how faithful He will be.

So remember how good He's been to you. Thank Him. Not quickly, but spend some time.

*I will sing to the Lord*

*because he is good to me. Psalm 13:6 NLT*

And now we have a changed person. Nothing in the text says God fixed his problems, but God has definitely fixed him. He's encouraged.

It starts with getting real.

### Submitted by:

Spencer Bernard  
Evergreen Churches  
Bloomington, Minnesota

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 26:1-51  
Luke 2:36-52  
Psalm 60:1-12  
Proverbs 11:15

Monday, March 19

## A Promise Fulfilled

*So there at Hebron, King David made a covenant before the Lord with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel. – 2 Samuel 5:3 NLT*

David was promised the kingship of Israel back when he was a youth. In the meantime (experts say this span was about 15 years), David killed a giant, received glory, had to run for his life from his father-in-law, and often lived in caves in the wilderness. He hung out with some rough men and lost his best friend and even his wife.

These are pretty unfortunate circumstances for a future king to have to experience before ascending the throne. Yet in Hebrews 11 David is counted as those who didn't waver in unbelief. God's hand was in this the entire time, building character into David to make him a better king and leader. David may have wanted the promise of kingship fulfilled immediately, but God's plan proved to be much better even though it took years to be fulfilled.

What promises are you holding onto which seem to be taking a long time to be fulfilled? A loved one's repentance and salvation? Better circumstances at work or at home? Wisdom for a life decision? A change in someone's heart? No doubt we would love for the promises we claim to be fulfilled right away. It is hard sometimes to have to wait months or even years on God to work. Yet we cannot give into the thought that God is not working or that He won't fulfill that promise. He is faithful! That is part of His DNA. Even if we're faithless, He remains faithful. That is who He is.

Let us be those counted among the faithful in Hebrews 11. Let's not waver in unbelief. God is working to always fulfill His promises at just the right time.

### Submitted by:

Barbara Wilson  
Grace Community Church  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 28;16-29:40  
Luke 3:23-38  
Psalm 62:1-12  
Proverbs 11:18-19

## Anyone Can Promise

*Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it, the LORD is His name, "Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." – Jeremiah 33:2-3*

He looked into her eyes and promised, "I swear I'll pick you up for work on time tomorrow!" She struggled to believe him since it was the fourth time that month he was late, and her boss was growing impatient with her consistent tardiness.

She promised her little brother, "I won't ever hit you again. Just don't tell Mom!" For some reason the little fellow doubted his older sister's words as his arm throbbed in pain.

The young couple stood in front of the assembled family and friends in the breath-taking venue overlooking the ocean and repeated the vows, "I promise to love you for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, until death do us part." The married couples present knew how difficult it would be to keep that promise.

Have you ever wondered why we are so bad about keeping our promises? The promise, no matter how grandiose, is only as good as the character of the one making it. That's why God always keeps His promises to us! He made the world, and His character is impeccable.

God has given us many incredible promises: "He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:3-4). Then why don't we live amazing lives of faith and victory? Maybe we don't know God as well as we think we do—we don't trust Him and His promises. The Bible says, "The people who *know their God* will display strength and take action" (Daniel 11:32). Seek to experience God on a deeper level and believe His extravagant promises. *He can be trusted!*

### Submitted by:

Stephen Scott Nelson  
Atlanta House Church  
Atlanta, Georgia

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 26:52-28:15  
Luke 3:1-22  
Psalm 61:1-8  
Proverbs 11:16-17

Tuesday, March 20

## God's Surprise Faith-Builder

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. – 1 Corinthians 13:7 ESV*

I was sitting at the kitchen table reading a relative's family newsletter. I read the line, "We can note that both families [of their two grown-up kids] are involved in the life of their respective church's activities and life, and, of course, so are we." I found myself suddenly weeping. This was good news from the Ohio relatives who had the farm our family all enjoyed at different times. Why was I crying? My heart was hurting that while their two children's families were safely inside the protection of faith, we still had some flying solo, independent of God.

The grief of that hit me unawares and came out as sobbing. However, I quieted myself and turned to my tablet to go to my online Bible reading app and the book of Job. I was sidetracked by seeing an email with a *Faithwalkers Journal* entry. Why was my email opened to August 2015? An entry called "Embrace the Battle" was at the top. As I read it, it sounded familiar and also directly addressed my current feelings. My faith was strengthened and rallied. And at the bottom of the page I noted the writer: myself. What?!

It seemed God had played a trick on me, but a kind trick. I thought I had deleted all the old emails from an obsolete email address but some were left in folders dating back to August 2015. So when my email page opened by itself, the content was there to hit me in the face.

What God reminded me was that faith is an on-going battle. We have to fight to keep believing God is powerful and at work in lives. Sometimes our children or loved ones are operating outside the arena of faith, but they are not outside God's care and protection. Our prayer of faith protects, our love encircles, and in hope we hold on.

### Submitted by:

Dotty Vanderhorst  
Cornerstone Community Church  
Lenexa, Kansas

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 30:1-31:54  
Luke 4:1-30  
Psalm 63:1-11  
Proverbs 11:20-21

## Embrace the Battle

*If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children. — Psalm 73:15*

When we believe and live out a truth about God, we can expect to find it challenged by the devil at some point. For example, my husband and I believed early on in our marriage the truth, "Children are a blessing" from Psalm 127:3—"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord." (God gave us eight gifts.) Satan comes along and challenges that: "Children are a curse. They're a headache and a heart ache. Have one or less." (Obviously, most Europeans have bought into that lie, and many Americans as well.)

Why then should we be surprised if our children's lives are sometimes a battleground? In my college years I pictured life as a flower-filled, sunlit meadow. Now I agree with the song "Dancing in the Minefields." We are out of Eden; our meadows have land mines planted in them. And our faith may come under attack as we fight in spiritual battles for others. Rather than be surprised by problems, I need to face towards my King and saturate my mind in His truth and my heart in His love. The quiet little voice one sometimes hears—"Just give up"—is not from God!

Another truth Satan questions is "God is good." I like Andrew Peterson's thought in "Don't You Want to Thank Someone?" on his album *After All These Years*:

Don't you ever wonder why  
In spite of all that's wrong here  
There's still so much that goes so right?  
Beauty abounds.

Our good God is both Creator and Redeemer. Don't listen to "Just give up." Embrace the battle. We're in this for life.

### Submitted by:

Dotty Vanderhorst  
Cornerstone Community Church  
Lenexa, Kansas

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 32:1-33:39  
Luke 4:31-5:11  
Psalm 64:1-10  
Proverbs 11:22

Friday, March 23

## Impact for Your Prayer

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord hear my voice. — Psalm 130:1-2 NIV*

Our prayer, if it is going to have impact with God, needs to be passionate. It must come from the core of our being. When our kids were young, they had a lot of requests and things that they wanted. Sometimes, we would not respond right away to their requests because we were testing whether they really wanted it or not. If they still wanted their request after some delay, we would either provide it or help them get it because we knew they had a great desire.

I know that God is that way with me at times. He tests whether or not my request is a whim or a passing fancy. In Psalm 130, the writer cries out to God from the "depths." What depths is He talking about? It is different for each believer and it is different at various times of our life. Our cry may come:

Out of the depths of despair  
Out of the depths of discouragement  
Out of the depths of desire for fruit  
Out of the depths of concern for a wayward child  
Out of the depths of debt and financial bondage  
Out of the depths of burden for an unsaved friend  
Out of the depths of \_\_\_\_\_

These depths are where the real power with God lies.

What are the depths of your heart today? At this stage in your life and walk, what are the passions of your heart? Turn these burdens, passions, and concerns into prayer. The Spirit will also help turn these concerns into groanings and longings too deep for words (see Romans 8:26). God will hear and respond.

### Submitted by:

Dave Lennander  
Coulee Rock Community Church  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 36:1-Deuteronomy 1:46  
Luke 5:29-6:11  
Psalm 66:1-20  
Proverbs 11:24-26

## Beware of Dog!

*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary the devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith... — 1 Peter 5:8-9*

We have all read the sign, "Beware of Dog!" What does this make you think of?

It makes me think about a big, ugly Rottweiler with bared teeth who is ready to chase me and bite me if I dare enter his domain. I was bitten once by a German Shepherd at a dairy in Pittsburgh. I was waiting for the office to open to buy some milk and decided to take a stroll around the barns and check out the cows. I never saw the dog until it was too late! Ouch! There was no sign warning me, or if there was, I ignored it.

God wants you to beware of Satan and his hatred for you. God has a sign out, "Beware of Satan!"

Have you seen it? Have you heeded His warning? Satan is constantly seeking an opportunity to devour you—to destroy you, your family, your testimony, and your church. He never gives up, even if you are on vacation or in a church service!

Do you know how to resist him? You can. Here is how.

Faith in God is the only hope. Remember the famous line from *Star Wars* where Princess Leia sends the message, "Obi-wan, you are our only hope!" God is the believer's only hope against Satan and his schemes. We cannot defeat Satan in our strength. We must rely on the Holy Spirit and the word of God to defend ourselves. We rely on God by praying. Prayer is the way we trust God and see His peace and power unleashed. Do not worry about anything, but pray about everything. Trust in God's word and His promises, and you will resist Satan today and not be devoured. God promises.

### Submitted by:

Stephen Scott Nelson  
Atlanta House Church  
Atlanta, Georgia

### One-Year Bible Reading

Numbers 33:40-35:34  
Luke 5:12-28  
Psalm 65:1-13  
Proverbs 11:23

Saturday, March 24

## Prayer is God's Idea!

*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. — James 5:16 NIV*

"It just doesn't seem as important as other things."

"I don't see anything happening."

"If I could just see God. . . . I like eye contact."

"How do I really know that He is listening?"

Have you ever had thoughts like that? I have. Prayer is one of the best-known subjects of the Bible and often the most neglected weapon of spiritual warfare.

God commands us to pray: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7 NIV). Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1 NIV).

What happens when we don't pray?

We don't see God working in and through us.

Our hearts become cold and often discouraged.

Satan can easily deceive and confuse us.

We become selfish and occupied only with this life.

We become critical and fault-finding with others.

The more important things of life often take more courage, initiative, and discipline to become a way of life. "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV84).

### Submitted by:

Herschel Martindale  
Oakridge Community Church  
Highland, Maryland

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29  
Luke 6:12-38  
Psalm 67:1-7  
Proverbs 11:27

## Living in Light of the Resurrection

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" – Luke 24:5-6*

Easter Week. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the pivotal moment of history. We ponder how He gave up His life, taking the penalty for our sin, rising again from death so that we could be made right with God and spend eternity in His presence.

While it is proper and fitting that we remember what Jesus did, this week is also a time to ask and answer this question: how am I living in light of what Jesus did?

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told us to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." I should then consider whether or not I am making disciples and teaching the commands of Jesus.

In Luke 6:46, Jesus asked us, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" I must examine my habits to see if I am both pursuing an understanding of Jesus' instructions as well as putting them into habitual practice.

In Luke 14:33, Jesus tells us that "any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." I should candidly consider whether my life is fully surrendered to Christ, or if my daily and weekly choices are still captured by the entanglements of this world.

During this week, let us meditate upon these, as well as other, commands of Jesus and our obedience to them. Let us be a people who understand what it means to truly live in light of the resurrection.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

### Submitted by:

Greg Miller  
The Firehouse Church  
Denver, Colorado

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-49  
Luke 6:39-7:10  
Psalm 68:1-18  
Proverbs 11:28

Tuesday, March 27

## Beautiful Compassion

*He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet . . . He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet? . . . Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean. – John 13:5-10*

Whenever I read about Jesus washing His disciples' feet, I am always floored by His amazing act of humility. The Creator of the universe stooping down to wash the filthy, smelly feet of 12 dudes?! It's mind-boggling. Church, we can learn so much from this stunning, servant-leadership Jesus modeled for us. However, I have been recently meditating on the beautiful compassion between Peter and Jesus found here.

As it becomes Peter's turn to get his feet washed, he is perplexed and objects to the Lord's act of kindness. Peter basically says, "Jesus, *You* of all people can't wash my feet. *You* are far too important for that. *You* are far too holy for such a messy job." Jesus responds by saying, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Peter, still not understanding, replies, "OK, Lord, then wash all of me." To which Jesus responds, "Those who have had their sins eternally washed away don't need to be washed again. But you do need your stinky feet to be addressed."

The first time I read these verses, I was honestly a little confused. Once I realized what a stunning, grace-filled picture of sanctification this is, I was comforted. Jesus has saved us and forgiven us for all our sins. Hallelujah! We have entered into a relationship with Him and will be with Him forever in heaven. Our place before Him is eternally secure. However, the Lord is not done with us. He wants to actively and lovingly grow us, cleanse us, and change us to be more like Him—now. He is sanctifying us.

### Submitted by:

Caleb Yetton  
The Rock Church  
Draper, Utah

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20  
Luke 7:36-8:3  
Psalm 69:1-18  
Proverbs 12:1

## It Is Finished!

*He said, "It is finished!" – John 19:30*

It is frustrating to have unfinished projects. One famous unfinished project is the Westminster Cathedral in England. Construction began in 1895, but almost the entire interior is undecorated because it became too expensive to complete. And in the movie industry there was a Disney version of *The Little Prince*. It was written by Orson Welles and story-boarded in the 1930s, but then never made. On a personal level, I have a half-finished devotional book I would like to write, organizational projects that I have failed to see through to the end, and some ongoing items on my to-do list that never get checked off.

Jesus, however, completed the most significant task for humanity when He uttered, "It is finished!" on the cross. With that bold proclamation He replaced our faults and failures with forgiveness and a fresh start. Those three words mean that we do not have to feel condemned or judged by the world or by God. Yet it is so easy for us to forget the definitive completeness of these words. We can still feel like we have to strive to make up for our sin. We try to prove ourselves, our abilities, and our worth. We forget that the job is already done. As Paul so aptly reminds us, "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3 NKJV).

"It is finished" gave Jesus the final say over our lives, our future, and our eternity. We can rest in the truth that we have a hopeful new beginning because of His work on the cross. During this Holy Week, take time to truly reflect on how much that phrase means to our lives.

### Submitted by:

Kelly Lewis  
Grace Point Community Church  
Lewis Center, Ohio

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25  
Luke 7:11-35  
Psalm 68:19-35  
Proverbs 11:29-31

Wednesday, March 28

## Beautiful Compassion – 2

*Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean." – John 13:10 ESV*

Have you ever been aware of and ashamed by your sin, your "dirty feet"? Maybe you are in that place right now? You think to yourself, "I'm a Christian, I should know better than this. I can't still be dealing with sin like this. I need to be cleaner than this, holier than this." Perhaps you are in denial that you are even struggling. You think you can't take your stink to God because He is too important for feet washing. Or you think God is too holy to deal with your filth. Yes, God is holy, but He is also full of mercy and compassion (Psalm 103:8).

When we can't run from the smell of our sin anymore, we respond like Peter and scream, "Jesus, NO! Get away! My sin is too gross for You to deal with. I have dirt, grime, and dung on my feet and my heart, and *You* should not be the one to clean it." We fall in the trap of pride, thinking, "Let *me* just quickly go clean myself up, and then I'll feel better about how I smell." The truth of the gospel, however, is that Jesus graciously comes to meet us *exactly where we are*. He knows we are weak and but dust (Psalm 103:14). He wants to help us grow and walk out of our sin.

Jesus is so patient and gentle with us in this cleansing. He became a man like us, to be with us. He doesn't shame us by yelling, "What are you doing?! You should be perfect already! You are so gross." No, as He did with His disciples, He mercifully walks alongside us. He patiently endures the smell of our stinky feet until at just the right time He tenderly and lovingly addresses each specific area. Psalm 103:10 (NLT) says, "*He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.*" Verse 13 (NLT) follows: "*The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.*" And that's beautiful.

### Submitted by:

Caleb Yetton  
The Rock Church  
Draper, Utah

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22  
Luke 8:4-21  
Psalm 69:19-36  
Proverbs 12:2-3

## I've Got This

*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8*

Close your eyes. Paint a picture of Jesus in your mind. What does He look like? If eyes reflect the soul, what do you see in His?

Listen to Him. How do you imagine His tone when He said to the woman with the discharge of blood, "Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace" (Luke 8:48)? What did He communicate to the woman caught in adultery when He said, "Neither do I condemn you" (John 8:11)? When I read those words, I hear compassion and mercy.

Now imagine Jesus after Peter had denied Him for the third time. In Luke's account of the story, we read that after the third denial, "The Lord turned and looked at Peter" (Luke 22:61).

When Jesus caught Peter's gaze, what was the look upon His face? For most of my life, when I have heard this story, I have imagined that when Jesus was talking with Peter, an edge of irritation intruded, as though Jesus were thinking to himself, "Stupid Peter. Why did I ever choose him, he's such a screw up." I imagined a look of disgust, eyes that communicated worthlessness.

But a friend challenged me recently. He asked, "What if the look upon Jesus' face was not one of disappointment, but instead communicated, 'Brother, I've got this. You are my beloved. Just wait and see what the Father and I are about to do'?"

Jesus never fails to look upon us with compassion. He never fails to love. Not even once. In Christ we have no need to think of God as a fickle master, for He is unchanging in His love. He is not a cauldron of boiling wrath—that has already been poured out upon the Son. Rather, every moment He gazes upon us with a look that says, "I've got this."

### Submitted by:

Jason Kanz  
Cedarcreek Community Church  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32  
Luke 8:22-39  
Psalm 70:1-5  
Proverbs 12:4

Saturday, March 31

## Better than Peeps

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV*

I don't know about you, but in the midst of marshmallow peeps, chocolate marshmallows, jellybeans, and Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs, Easter last year was a blessing to my life! God really reminded me of why Jesus had to die and why I can have tremendous hope because of the resurrection. There were at least 18 people who indicated that they prayed to receive Jesus for their salvation at our services! God was so kind to bring us dozens of new visitors and people who got to worship Jesus and hear a clear presentation of the Gospel.

It was also good to remember that there are TWO ways the Bible says you can get to heaven. Yes, two!

"Plan A": Earn it. Unfortunately, in order for this plan to work, you need to be perfect. And none of us are (Romans 3:23). Unlike the Baseball Hall of Fame (where failing seven out of ten times gets you into the elite club), you have to bat 1000 with God. No sin, ever. It's a good thing there is a plan "B."

"Plan B": Trust Jesus Christ. Here's the Good News—Jesus has already paid your way to heaven! All we need to do is to repent and trust Him for our salvation. The verses from Ephesians above tell us God's redemption is by grace through faith. It's not religion, but relationship.

I like this quote: "The Christian is not somebody who accepts a religion. A Christian is somebody who has a relationship with God." Amen.

I am so thankful for the opportunities that God gives us every weekend at our church. I'm so blessed to be laboring with such faithful and joyful servants. Serve and be a blessing this week!

### Submitted by:

Bill Young  
The Rock Church  
Draper, Utah

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20  
Luke 9:7-27  
Psalm 72:1-20  
Proverbs 12:8-9

## The Blood AND the Water

*But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. – John 19:34*

Do you ever feel regret or shame? I do. In my life there is a train wreck of brokenness that if I were to tell you of, you would probably stop reading this devotional and ask, "How could you?!"

Shame and regret go hand in hand:

"Oh, I wish I had not said that."

"Oh, why did I go there?"

"Oh, why did I look at that?"

"How could I have been so uncaring?"

Our past sin may just linger there, waiting to remind us of who we were and accuse us of our sinfulness now.

I have good news for us!

In John 19 Jesus upon the cross was dead. His death surprised the soldier who was tasked with the gruesome job of making sure the three on their crosses expired before sundown. Because Jesus was seemingly dead, the soldier chose not to break Jesus' legs as he did the other two. Instead he speared Jesus in the side, to make sure the seemingly dead was surely dead. When the spear went into Jesus' side, blood and water poured out from His body.

Jesus' blood that poured out of His body has covered all of our sin. God no longer holds us guilty for our sin, and that alone is good news. However, there is more! Water poured out from His side as well. Water cleanses. Think about that. Not only has Jesus removed the guilt of our sin by His blood, He has also removed the stain of our shame and regret. So the next time you are reminded of your shame and regret, remember you are free AND you are clean!

### Submitted by:

Ed Russ  
Grace Community Church  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### One-Year Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23  
Luke 8:40-9:6  
Psalm 71:1-24  
Proverbs 12:5-7